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Wednesday, June 26, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Putin says Snowden at Moscow airport, rejects extradition

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday revealed that the US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden was still in a Moscow airport transit zone, rejecting calls for his extradition to the United States.

In his first comments about the chase for Snowden that has captivated world attention, Putin described the ex-intelligence contractor as a "free man" whose arrival in Russia was "completely unexpected" for the Russian authorities.

The dramatic announcement ended two days of guessing over the whereabouts of the fugitive Snowden, who leaked revelations of US massive surveillance programmes to the media and is now wanted by the US authorities.

"It is true that Mr. Snowden came to Moscow," Putin said at a news conference while on a visit to Finland. "For us, this was completely unexpected."

"He arrived as a transit passenger and he does not need a visa or other documents. He can buy a ticket and go wherever he pleases. He did not cross the state border, as a transit passenger he is still in the transit hall," Putin added.

Snowden had been expected to board a flight for Cuba on Monday, reportedly on his way to seek asylum in Ecuador. But he never did and Putin appeared to confirm that the fugitive was still uncertain over his onward travel plans.

"Mr. Snowden is a free man, the sooner he selects his final destination point, the better for us and for himself," said Putin.

--- 'A lot of squealing and not much wool' ---

The United States had earlier urged Russia to use all means to expel Snowden, who reportedly arrived at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on a flight from Hong Kong on Sunday.

However Putin insisted that Russia only extradites foreign nationals to countries with which it has a formal extradition treaty.

"We have no such agreement with the United States," he said, calling US allegations that Russia is breaking the law "nonsense and rubbish."

The White House National Security spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden later told AFP that: "While we do not have an extradition treaty with Russia, there is nonetheless a clear legal basis to expel Mr. Snowden."

Putin said he would personally prefer not to deal with cases such as those of Snowden and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is holed up in Ecuador's embassy in London to avoid charges of sexual assault in Sweden.

"It's the same as shearing a piglet: there's a lot of squealing and not much wool," he said.

Wall Street Journal with nice coverage of Aruba and our language Papiamentu

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Our beautiful language, Papiamentu, is getting more and more recognition around the world. And recently, the Wall Street Journal recently wrote an article on the 10th anniversary of the recognition of Papiamentu as our official language.

The article says as follows:

Aruba celebrates the "Year Of Papiamentu" marking 10 Years as the island's official language

"In the month of May, 2003, Aruba declared Papiamentu--the most widely-spoken language on the Dutch Caribbean ABC islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao--its official language. Papiamentu and Dutch now reign as the country's official languages to address govern-

ment officials and institutions. In celebration, Aruba's Culture Department has deemed 2013 the "Year of Papiamentu."

While Papiamentu has been Aruba's official language for 10 years, it has been the island's native tongue for more than 300 years. Papiamentu is a Creole language, emerging from nearby languages and constantly evolving over the past three centuries. Nearby languages such as Venezuelan Spanish and American English influence the language today. The very word "Papiamentu," meaning "to chat," stems from Portuguese and Spanish.

"Papiamentu is a young language," Aruban linguist Ramon Todd Dandare explains, "And like all languages it is developing and changing."

Papiamentu is spoken on all three of the Dutch Caribbean ABC islands, although there are variations in dialect from island to island.

"I can hear right away if someone is from Bonaire or Curacao--there is a slight dif-

ference," Dandare says. "Just as in the United States, there are different accents from region to region."

Aruba is part of the Dutch Kingdom and therefore its governmental, legal and educational systems have historically favored the Dutch language. Although 70 percent of the local population speaks Papiamentu, all official written documents were worded in Dutch for 350 years. Until recently, all official school exams and classroom instruction have been given exclusively in Dutch. A new pilot project has begun for the 2012-2013 academic year, coinciding with the Year of Papiamentu, called "Multilingual School," in which students are instructed in Papiamentu and gradually introduced to Dutch, English and Spanish.

Establishing Papiamentu as Aruba's official language has helped to stimulate its use alongside Dutch in official settings. The language's official 10-year anniversary is a triumph for natives hoping to preserve and improve their mother tongue."

Mexico storm upgraded to hurricane: forecasters

MIAMI (AFP) - Tropical Storm Cosme was upgraded to a hurricane on Tuesday, as it swirled off Mexico's Pacific coast, forecasters said.

At 1500 GMT, Cosme was about 365 miles (585 kilometers) south of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, with maximum sustained winds of 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour.

The storm was moving toward the northwest at around 18 miles (30 kilometers) per hour, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said, and was expected to pass near sparsely populated Socorro Island later Tuesday.

Forecasters said large swells created by Cosme will be felt along Mexico's Pacific coast from Manzanillo to Cabo Corrientes, and could cause dangerous surf and rip currents.

Attention: Motorist!

Last day to pay Motor Vehicle Tax is:

Friday, JUNE 28th!!

SIAD reminds all motorists that the last day to pay the 3rd quarter of the Motor Vehicle Tax is Friday, June 28, 2013. SIAD advises all those who still has to pay their car, truck motorcycle, V-car, etc tax, to do this as soon as possible.

Prof Dr. Ryan Peterson:

Corporate Social Responsibility - Much Ado about Nothing?



See story inside on pg 2

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Prof Dr Ryan Peterson:

Corporate Social Responsibility – Much ado about nothing?

Last week, the Social Economic Council of St. Maarten (SER) held its first annual symposium under the theme of "Innovate or Deteriorate, Corporate Social Responsibility as the way forward for St. Maarten." The symposium featured opening remarks by Acting Governor Reynold Groeneveldt, Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams, SER chairman Rene Richardson, and keynote speaker, Prof. Dr. Ryan Peterson, Professor of Innovation Economics at the University of Aruba, who heads the research program on 'Sustainable Islands'.

Acting Governor Groeneveldt commented that the SER "plays an important role in the country." He said that "economic growth alone cannot lead to sustainable growth" and that "a constant dialogue is needed between social partners." He pointed to the need for "more structural corporate involvement" in the overall development of St. Maarten. The acting governor was also "elated to learn" that Prof. Dr. Peterson has St. Maarten roots – his grandfather was from Simpson Bay – and was proud that a "small island like St. Maarten can produce human resources of such a caliber".

According to the Prime Minister Wescot-Williams, "if we study the numbers of the Chamber of Commerce, it is obvious that we have no lack of corporations on the island. There are many, big and small, that are active and not so active in the social arena. And so today, as we look at that responsibility of cooperation on St. Maarten, the question I would like to hear addressed would be the one asking specifically what drives the feeling of social responsibility

of cooperation right here on St. Maarten. It is important as we look at that responsibility of corporate citizens, that we look at it in the bigger picture of the development of St. Maarten and the contribution of everyone to that development". The Prime Minister concluded that the private sector "has a very important role to play in the establishment of the National Development Plan: a plan where no one can be left behind and one in which all have a role to play."

Prof. Dr. Peterson set the stage for his presentation by asking some simple questions: "How do islands develop? How do institutions affect this development?" and "What role do they (institutions) play in islands?" The professor argued that "solid institutions are fundamental, without such they (islands) do not move forward." Based on over ten years of scientific study of small island states, Prof. Dr. Peterson highlighted several examples of lack of institutional capabilities in small islands states.

"Too often we find ourselves polarized around issues and solutions, in which public institutions find fault with lack of investments by the private sector, or in which the private sector finds blame with public institutions for not managing their finances. Add to this the intensity of personal and political influence across institutions and it is not strange that conflicts, chaos and corruption reigns high throughout the Caribbean", Peterson stated. He concluded that all other factors being equal, institutional capabilities explain well over sixty percent of island success, and also shared practices of building and developing a robust institutional

architecture for sustainable development. More importantly, "beyond formal institutions, institutional values and norms (that guide ethical and social behavior) also play a key role" in the development of island societies.

Prof. Dr. Peterson described how "Corporate Social Innovation," or CSI, "has a positive impact on the financial performance of companies" and also "at the macro level", having a positive effect across a society as a whole. Many companies, however, are merely "green-washing" and superficially eco friendly, he added, for shallow PR purposes. Corporate sponsorship is important and welcome, but much more than donations are needed. We need Corporate stewardship to innovate our island societies in a healthy and sustainable manner. If islands are to welcome foreign investment, it should be from corporations that are highly ranked according to their social responsibility, not merely "shell companies laundering money or other illegal activities."

The "old economics focused on profit only," the professor said, while the new view is wider, more comprehensive and strategic in scope. CSI is essentially about managing relationships in ever widening circles. "A risk mitigation approach is now more common, especially after the financial crash of 2008. It's no longer business as usual." Increasingly, corporations are seeking "win-win situations" in which everyone benefits.

CSI, however, is not widely practiced across the Caribbean. Corporations among the islands "are still in the old economic mindset, trying to make ends meet" as

profitability for them becomes harder to achieve since the cost of business is high, and labor productivity has been dropping steadily across the region over the past years, the professor pointed out. Few Caribbean companies "have a structural CSI approach." Much of their CSI depends on the character and whims of management, and is reactive, not proactive. And "environmental responsibility is still not seen as priority in the Caribbean. Companies often respond in an ad hoc, unstructured way" to social issues, and many find it "easier to work without government, than with them." The professor highlighted that "trust is important. If companies don't trust their governments, economic deterioration sets in". And if companies continue to operate in the old, reactive mindset, there will be little social innovation and societal development.

Related to the declining levels of productivity and thus quality of life, the professor stated that the Caribbean faces huge problems such as brain

drain to the US and Europe, and rising youth unemployment. To offset this, "not only more, but smarter investments are needed in the youth and education to boost productivity," thus retooling the younger profession generation with the skills required of a new millennium. Part of the remedy is that the "community, too, needs to become educated on being more responsible."

He wrapped up his presentation by stating that islands with higher CSI outperform islands with lower levels, and repeated his warning about declining labor productivity across the Caribbean, which will have dire social and economic consequences for the future. With that the symposium switched to an open floor where the audience challenged the assembled panel on various social and economic issues. The panel included Prof. Dr. Peterson, SER Chairman René Richardson, Robbie Ferron, Harbor CEO Mark Mingo, and secretary of the Voice of Our Children Foundation Lucrecia Lynch.

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Friday, June 28th is last chance to submit unused vehicle number plates

The Department of Taxes has issued a bulletin informing all vehicle owners that Friday, June 28th is the very last opportunity they have to submit 2013 vehicle number plates that are not in use. The third quarter begins July 1st and if these plates remain unclaimed for the entire quarter that is until September 2013 there is the possibility for obtaining a tax dispensation. This means that that customer will not have to pay for this quarter. A vehicle not in use or that will not be in use for some time, there will be no tax levied for one or more quarters during the year. This is the dispensation and is valid only if the customer complies with the following conditions:

1. Submits the number plates before the quarter begins (before July 1st 2013)

Continued on pg 6



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Collaboration announced between Aruba Airlines and island publication Bacchanal



Fredrich van der Hans and Onno de Swart

Aruba Airlines' CEO Onno de Swart was pleased to announce that beginning with the landmark 60th anniversary edition of Aruba's Carnival, the airline will carry a copy in every seat pocket of what many consider to be the "bible" of the event, Bacchanal. The editor and publisher of the magazine totally devoted to carnival, Fredrich "Chibi" van der Hans was present for the public unveiling of their partnership yesterday morning.

Mr. de Swart cited Bacchanal's many attributes in making the decision to provide this valuable source of information to the airline's passengers. "It is a beautiful publication that reports not only current carnival events, but provides excellent background for island visitors on the history of Aruba's carnival. Articles are also in both Papiamentu and English, reaching a broad audience of tourists and resident travelers. We are very pleased and proud we can provide this source of information that will certainly enhance the carnival experience for our

patrons."

Mr. van der Hans expressed his gratitude for the airline's support in the magazine he has produced for the last twelve years. He pointed out that aside from the formal publication, it has an easy, break-away schedule of all events, which also features a detailed map of all parade routes.

Each copy is printed in full color, and many consider them collectors' items, saving the annual issue for a running history of Aruba's carnival. For the landmark 60th Carnival of 2014, he has planned a very special issue.

Each year, Bacchanal is published on the official opening day of carnival season, November 11. It is from that date through the end of the season that the airline will provide copies on board all their flights.

During the first phase of issue, it will be found on flights to and from Maracaibo, Panama and Valencia, Venezuela; the second phase will include Sao Paulo, Brazil and Miami, Florida.

Sign up your kids for free summer camp from IBiSA and ASU



Minister Visser, Monique Kuiperi, Verushka Croes and Gerry Franca

Aruba's Minister of Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visser, was joined by the Director of IBiSA, Monique Kuiperi and the Head of the Aruba Sports Union (ASU), Gerry Franca, in announcing they are collaborating to offer a free week of camp for island children this summer, beginning July 8.

There will be four one-week sessions of camp, with a max of 200 children per week inscribed. It is the goal of the health and sport organizations to reach 800 children over the summer and inspire them to continue the program of healthy eating and exercise they will experience during the free "Ban Move" (Come and Move) Camp.

The camps purpose is in line with the minister's long-term health and wellness plan

for Aruba, particularly targeting childhood obesity. The first four days of the five-day camp week will be spent participating in various athletic activities and sports. Children attending the camp will also be introduced to healthy, fun alternatives in eating, directing them away from typical fast foods. The fifth day of the week, every Friday, campers will be treated to field trips like hiking around Arikok National Park park, swimming at various bays, organized events at the Linear Park, and other fun activities.

Each week, the camp will be based out of a different sport center on the island, to facilitate the participation of children from various neighborhoods. The schedule is:

IBiSA Sport Centrum

San Nicolaas: July 8-12.
Frans Figaroa Sport Center in Noord: July 15-19.

Betico Croes Sport Center, St. Cruz: July 21-26.
Yara Sport Center: July 29 - August 2.

Daily sessions begin at 8:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. Activities will include volleyball, beach volleyball, soccer, beach tennis, basketball, Ju-Jitsu, Capoeira, and Zumba classes, plus other exciting games and athletic pastimes, depending on the location.

Registration is open to children ages 8-14 years old; only 200 per week will be accepted, and a child may attend only one week, unless the inscription limit has not been filled. It is the hope of the organizers to stimulate a taste for an active, healthy lifestyle to at least 800 island youngsters this summer. Parents can sign up their children at the IBiSA headquarters on the western outskirts of Oranjestad behind the Certified Maga Market, or the offices of the Aruba Sports Union in the Betico Croes Sport Stadium in St. Cruz. For more information and to register, call IBiSA: 582-4987 or 584-8903 or the ASU at 585-40710 or 585-4067.



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Women's Club of Aruba installs a new board



The Women's Club of Aruba, with nearly 80 years of serving the community, was proud to install their new board on Friday evening, June 21st, during an elegant event in the ballroom of the Alhambra Conference Center.

The Shoe Ceremony, awarding each new officer a special pair of shoes, was performed by Past President Enid Croes - Marugg. It was symbolic of how each new officer was uniquely suited to

their function. The new board members are:

President: Omaira Silva-de L'Isle-serving her second term.

Vice-President: Norma Brinkenbergh

Correspondence Secretary: Marva Solagnier

Treasurer: Filomena Croes

Program Chairman: Cruszchenka Croes

Welfare chairman: Carmen Russel

Study Group chairman:

Frances Mosconi

Members at Large:

Bernadette Schouten

Milushka Dijkhoff

Ursly Silberie

Shailiny Tromp Lee

Past-President:

Mrs

Rubia Maduro

The gala event welcomed the group of civic-minded and energetic woman to an organization that has sponsored and performed many important public-service projects. Annually, they stimulate academic achievement with their Top Student Awards. They have also visited old age homes on days such as Mother's and Father's Day, to make the elderly feel special and loved. Their various fundraising efforts throughout the year support a number of worthwhile charities and foundations.

The staff of THE MORNING NEWS congratulates the newly installed officers of Women's Club of Aruba and commends them for all their hard work as volunteers.

Famed L'ANZA products now available on Aruba



A leader in professional hair care products, L'ANZA was the first company to offer shampoos, conditioners, styling products and treatments designed to heal the hair. L'ANZA combines all natural ingredients including botanical extracts, vitamins, amino acids and moisturizers. L'ANZA products have received praise in Allure, Harper's Bazaar, Redbook and Modern Salon.

ing solutions for everyone's hair care needs. Since 1985, L'ANZA has targeted the causes of damaged hair, not just the symptoms, combining the latest technological innovations with the healing elements of nature."

"L'ANZA products do not contain any known carcinogens and are never tested on animals. To promote a healthy and sustainable earth, packaging is made from recycled materials."

As a licensed L'ANZA educator, Ms. Nisia will host an introductory workshop for both hair care professionals and consumers this coming Sunday, June 30, in the Alhambra Ballroom. Attendees will be introduced to the optimal use of five of the most popular line of L'ANZA products: Healing Smooth, Healing Style, Healing Strength, Healing Volume and Healing Moisture, as well as a line for men. They will also be coached in the use of Healing Color,



their complete line of coloring products and additives that enhance the process, keeping color looking rich and vivid much longer by preventing fading from UV rays.

The workshop will take place from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM and costs \$40. This includes snacks, beverages, a light lunch and a certificate at the finish of the session. Ms. Nisia emphasized that L'ANZA is a popular product with fine salons around the world, it is available directly to the consumer as well, and the

average user will find the workshop highly entertaining and beneficial. Reservations can be made via e-mail by contacting gala_nis@hotmail.com or Aruba P/R firm Vibration at vibrationspr@gmail.com or calling 583-9008.

According to local distributor and hair care expert from Curacao, Migala Leonor Nisia, "From care to color, L'ANZA heals, seals, and protects hair in over 40 countries worldwide. It is independently-owned and operated, dedicated to heal-

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Art for The Arts Fundraising event to support new foundation Sinfonia Artworks Belinda de Veer for sale at Fundraiser on June 27



Belinda de Veer posing in front of one of her paintings at L'America Gallery

On Thursday June 27th renowned local artist Belinda de Veer will host a unique art exhibition & fundraising event at L'America Gallery, showcasing over twenty paintings she created over the past ten years. All artworks will be for sale at deeply discounted prices, starting at 500 florins. These special prices are only available during the 'Art for The Arts'

event on June 27th from 8 to 10 pm. Proceeds of this fundraising event will benefit a brand new foundation to support the arts and classical music, called Sinfonia.

Sinfonia was recently founded by Belinda de Veer. During its first year Foundation Sinfonia will organize classical music concerts in De Veer's residence and atelier in Ponton. These concerts will take place every other month featuring local and international classical musicians. "It has been a lifetime dream to be able to open my house for the cause of arts and music. I started playing the piano at age nine and have been passionate about music ever since," De Veer states. "With Foundation Sinfonia I hope to inspire people and create easy access to classical music in the cosy setting of a private residence." The very first purchase of the foundation will be a baby grand piano. Another goal is to transform De



Belinda de Veer and L'America Gallery's Conny Kiers

Veer's residence into a multi-functional art house where a variety of artistic initiatives will be held.

The art exhibition at L'America Gallery on June 27th showcases highlights of Belinda de Veer's established art career. This special art exhibition is open to all audiences with an interest in art. It will be a unique opportunity for art collectors and admirers of De Veer's work to obtain her paintings at greatly

reduced prices.

Artworks on display cover a period of ten years (2002-2012). Well known themes and symbols that appear in De Veer's artworks are gardens, flowers and the process of birth, expressing travels through life and human growth. Often phrases of De Veer's poetry and a unique use of earth colors complete her artwork.

Belinda de Veer was born in Aruba. She earned a Doctor's degree in pharmacy in the USA. De Veer studied piano since she was 9 years old and currently takes classes with the award-winning pianist Armand Simon. De Veer attended art workshops at Ateliers '89 from 1989 - 1992 given by renowned art teachers from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam.

Since 2002 De Veer's artwork has been on display at many individual and group exhibitions, visited among others by members of Holland's and Monaco's royal families. Her paintings have

been featured in several local and international publications. De Veer is also mother of two and currently divides her time between motherhood, her work in pharmacy and creative work at her atelier. Please visit Belinda de Veer's website for more information: www.belindadeveer.com

L'America Gallery had a soft opening in November 2012 and officially opened its doors on June 13, 2013. L'America Gallery houses an art gallery, frame shop and art supply shop, all under one roof. A wide variety of art works from local artists, as well as artists from all over Latin America are for sale. A unique, not for sale, private collection of Latin American art is on display at the gallery's own museum in the back of the building. L'America Gallery is open Monday - Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Starting June 29 the gallery is also open on Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm. The gallery is located right behind Kong Hing Super Center, next to Visser Trading in Italiestraat 34-A (Eagle).

More information can be obtained at www.lamerica-gallery.com or on Facebook.

Friday, June 28th is last chance to submit unused vehicle number plates

Continued from pg 3

2. The plates remain unclaimed for at least one quarter during the year.

The number plates may be submitted either at the main office in Oranjestad or at any of the government offices in the district.

A form must be filled out at the moment of submitting the plates. The form indicates that you are submitting the number plates and the reason for submitting them. Reason may be, the vehicle needs to be repaired, you are going on an extended trip, etc.

To reserve the number for fiscal year 2013.

The Tax Department will reserve the number only for one year, the fiscal year 2013. After 2013, the client runs the risk of losing his particular vehicle number in the event he does not do anything.

The tax dispensation depends also on how long the client allows the plates to remain unclaimed.

There will be no such thing as a retroactive dispensation. This is because taxes are paid in advance.

If plates are submitted now, there will be no dispensation for the quarters already passed.

There will always be the Fls.20 fee for these plates.

For more information, please contact the Tax Department.

Colombia signs deal with NATO in Latin America first

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Colombia on Tuesday signed an information exchange agreement with NATO, an unprecedented move for a Latin American country and a first sign of closer cooperation that already has several of the region's leftist leaders up in arms.

The agreement was signed during Colombian Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon Bueno's visit to NATO headquarters in Brussels and could facilitate initiatives such as the participation of Colombian forces in NATO military exercises.

"As an Alliance of democracies, we are gratified when countries sharing similar values reach out to us," said NATO's Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow.

The Colombian minister said his country did "not want to be part of NATO" but to "learn from NATO" and "share experience, particularly in the fight against drugs and terrorism".

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos last month talked about closer ties with US-dominated NATO, provoking lively reactions from several left-wing Latin American leaders.

But NATO ruled out any possibility of Colombian membership saying it was not part of the North Atlantic region.

NATO, which currently has 28 members, has partnerships with a variety of countries including Australia and Mongolia.

Family hears prayer for Mandela's 'peaceful end'

PRETORIA (AFP) - Cape Town's Archbishop on Tuesday led Nelson Mandela's closest family in a sombre prayer, offering support for his wife and a "peaceful, perfect, end" for a man considered by many to be a living saint.

Bishop Thabo Makgoba visited the Pretoria Mediclinic Heart Hospital where the anti-apartheid leader is critically ill, consoling wife Graca Machel "at this hard time of watching and waiting."

After a 18-day vigil, in which the family has watched Mandela slip from a stable to critical condition, Makgoba urged them to be

US Senate confirms Pritzker to head Commerce Dept.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Senate on Tuesday confirmed President Barack Obama insider and Chicago billionaire Penny Pritzker as the new secretary of commerce.

Pritzker, a Hyatt hotels heiress, was the national finance chairwoman of Obama's 2008 campaign and national co-chair of his reelection campaign.

Her longtime status as a member of Obama's inner circle was seen as a potential stumbling block, and she drew concerns from Democrats over Hyatt's testy relationship with a hotel labor union that has a long-running dispute with the chain founded by Pritzker's family.

But her nomination process was relatively trouble-free, even as other Obama picks such as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel underwent intense scrutiny.

Pritzker was confirmed 97-1, with independent Senator Bernie Sanders the lone no vote.

Pritzker, 54, replaces John Bryson, who resigned nearly a year ago for medical reasons.

"Penny is a proven leader, a successful entrepreneur, and one of the most accomplished and highly-respected women in business today," Obama said in a statement after the Senate confirmation.

strong

"Take away their fears so that they may dare to face their grief," his prayer read.

"Guide the medical staff so that they may know how to use their skills wisely and well, in caring for Madiba and keeping him comfortable," Makgoba said, referring to Mandela by his clan name.

Mandela's condition has worsened despite more than two weeks of intensive treatment.

Many now fear the worst for a man who, in defeating apartheid, bent the arc of history toward his will and lit a fire that shone for millions across the world.



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US high court strikes down part of Voting Rights Act

WASHINGTON (AFP) - In what President Barack Obama branded a civil rights setback, the US Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down a key part of a federal law that safeguards the voting rights of blacks and other minorities.

By a 5-4 decision, the court upheld the core principle of the Voting Rights Act - that any electoral changes in mainly Southern states with a track record of voting discrimination must be "precleared" or approved by Washington.

But it cast the entire law into limbo by stating that section four of the law -- which lays out a formula for determining which of the 50 states should be subject to its provisions -- is outdated and needs a rewrite by Congress.

"Our decision in no way affects the permanent, nationwide ban on racial discrimination in voting," Chief Justice John Roberts argued, writing in the majority opinion issued with the verdict.

But he added: "Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional. Its formula can no longer be used as a basis for subjecting jurisdictions to preclearance."

"Coverage today is based on decades-old data and eradicated practices. Today the nation is no longer divided (as it was in 1965) ... yet the Voting Rights Act continues to treat is as if it were."

Tossing a political hot potato across the street to the Capitol, Roberts said it fell upon Congress to decide whether to draft another section-four formula "based on current conditions."

With the Republicans in control of the House of Representatives, political analysts say the prospects for any such revision in the near future are practically nil.

Obama was "deeply disappointed" by a ruling that, he said, "upsets decades of well-established practices that help make sure voting is fair, especially in places where voting discrimination has been historically prevalent."

He added: "While today's decision is a setback, it doesn't represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination. I am calling on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls."

Overwhelmingly renewed by Congress in 2006, the Voting Rights Act requires nine states, plus a batch of local-level governments in seven states, to seek Justice Department approval when altering their electoral laws.

The nine states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia, while the local governments are in states as diverse as California, Florida, Michigan and New York.

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International News

Climate plan boosts US global role: Kerry

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - A long-awaited climate change plan by President Barack Obama shows that the United States is serious on the problem and that other nations should do more, Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday.

Kerry, who as a senator led a previous failed effort to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, said the proposal being laid out by Obama "will send ripples internationally" about the US commitment to fighting climate change.

"Decisive action at home empowers us to make more progress internationally on a shared challenge," Kerry said in a statement issued as he visited major oil producer Kuwait.

"Climate change cannot be solved by one nation alone. The global community must step up. I raise this issue everywhere I travel, in every meeting," he said.

The United States has long faced international criticism for inaction on climate change, with China and India resenting calls by the wealthier nation for international mandates on cutting emissions.

Kerry spoke at length on climate change during a Sun-

day visit to India, saying record hot temperatures and increasingly severe natural disasters showed that the problem was "screaming" for action.

Obama and President Xi Jinping of China, which has surpassed the United States as the world's top emitter of the gases blamed for climate change, also agreed this month to phase out carbon-intensive hydrofluorocarbons found in air conditioners and refrigerators.

Kerry, a former presidential candidate and senator from Massachusetts, tried for months in 2009-2010 to win support for legislation that would impose the nation's first mandatory restrictions on carbon emissions.

The plan failed, with lawmakers, mostly from the rival Republican Party, saying such action would be too expensive and raising doubts about the science behind climate change.

Obama this time will largely bypass Congress and impose tighter regulations on power plants, a move that could face legal challenges and which some environmentalists say is already insufficient.

Libya has become terrorism transit hub: African Union



ORAN (AFP) - Libya is becoming an important transit hub for terrorists, constituting an "extremely dangerous" development in the region, an African Union leader said Tuesday on the sidelines of a regional security meeting in Algeria.

"I have many reports which say Libya has become an important transit hub for the main terrorist groups travelling from one country to another," said Francisco Caetano Jose Madeira, the AU's special representative in charge of counter terrorism. "We have information according to which some terrorists active in Mali consider Libya as a refuge and a place to regroup," Madeira told journalists, describing that as something "extremely dangerous."

The vulnerable security situation in Libya and the porosity of its borders nearly three years after an uprising toppled dictator Moamer Kadhafi, was a key concern at the two-day meeting in Algeria's western city of Oran.

"The question of Libya is on everyone's mind," said the European Union representative for the Sahel region, Michel Reveyrand de Menthon.

He described the north African country as "one of the keys" to stabilising the Sahel, a vast strip of land abutting the southern Sahara desert from Mauritania on Africa's west coast to Eritrea in the east.

The EU has offered to cooperate with Libya on the question of border security but Western sources say the lack of organisation in the country

since Kadhafi's overthrow makes such a project "very difficult."

In Mali, the security situation remains highly uncertain, despite the UN Security Council agreeing on Tuesday to a 12,600-strong peacekeeping force, and a recent ceasefire accord allowing for the army to move into key areas of the north so that presidential elections can be held in July.

There is little information on the fate of many Islamist militants who took over the north of the country last year before they were driven out in a French-led military intervention launched in January.

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Health & Living

Fears of disease in flood-hit northern India



RUDRAPRAYAG (AFP) - Indian officials stepped up efforts on Tuesday to prevent an outbreak of disease in the northern Himalayan region devastated by landslides and flash floods, as rains hampered the rescue of thousands still stranded.

Workers sprayed disinfectant amid concerns about disease from the bodies of hundreds of people who perished when floods hit the state of Uttarakhand, known as the "Land of the Gods" for its revered Hindu shrines.

The move came as fresh rains and landslides hampered efforts by the military to evacuate some 6,000 pilgrims and tourists still stranded throughout the state since the floods hit on June 15.

Raging rivers swept away houses, buildings and even entire villages in the state, which was packed with travellers in what is a peak tourist season. More than 1,000 bridges have been damaged along with roads, cutting off hard-hit villages and towns.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon said

he was saddened by the disaster, which has killed some 1,000 people.

Officials have stepped up preparations for a mass cremation of victims in the hard-hit holy town of Kedarnath, amid health concerns, with tonnes of wood flown by helicopter into the area. The cremation had been expected to go ahead on Tuesday but has now been delayed by the downpours, an official said.

A police official in charge of organising the cremations said belongings and documents recovered from bodies will be used to help with identification while DNA samples will also be collected.

A senior official warned that the death toll of 1,000 could rise dramatically as the grim task of collecting the bodies from rivers and from under flattened villages and other debris continues.

"From the feedback we are getting from people on the ground, people working in scavenging bodies, our estimate is the toll could be anything between 4,000 and 5,000," a senior disaster man-

agement official who did not want to be named told AFP.

Helicopters and soldiers have evacuated tens of thousands of people from the floods, while tonnes of food and other emergency supplies have been dropped to those still stranded. Unmanned drones have also been deployed to scan the thick jungles to find those still awaiting rescue, officials said.

Thousands of soldiers along with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police have been evacuating people by foot, using harnesses and erecting rope bridges across flooded rivers to help them to safety.



Carrot Juice Benefits



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Philip Morris fumes at Thailand cigarette pack rules

BANGKOK (AFP) - Tobacco giant Philip Morris and hundreds of Thai retailers vowed Tuesday to sue the kingdom's health authorities over new rules introducing bigger and more prominent anti-smoking warnings on cigarette packets.

The Tobacco firm, which makes the Marlboro brand, says the industry was not consulted before an April decision by Thailand's Health Ministry to extend health warnings from 50 to 85 percent on both sides of every cigarette packet sold in the country.

"Given the negative impact this policy will have on our trademarks and the fact the Ministry ignored our voice and the voices of thousands of retailers enacting this rule, we have no choice but to ask the court to intervene," company spokesman Onanong

Pratakphiriya said in a statement, adding the lawsuit will be brought before July 4.

Philip Morris has fought bitter legal battles with governments before, most famously losing an action against a pioneering Australian government policy to introduce entirely plain cigarette packaging with the same typeface and graphic images of diseased smokers.

The Thai Tobacco Trade Association (TTTA), which represents 1,400 retailers across the kingdom, said it will also ask the courts to overturn the new rules.

The ruling is due to come into force in October.

Thailand's Deputy Health Minister Cholnan Srikaew swatted away the threat of legal action.

Sci-Tech

Food and Agriculture Organization helping to reduce risks of pesticide use



--During the 10th to the 14th of June, delegates of 15 different countries in the Caribbean attended, The 18th CGPC (Co-ordinating Group for Pesticide Control) meeting. Here they discussed methods to reduce the risks of pesticides.

During the opening session Dr. Clyde Teeluckdharry, director of the department of Insect Control at the Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, placed emphasis on the importance of a balance in the risks and the necessities of pesticides. He indicated, "...we have got to evaluate the risks for human health, agriculture, of animals and the environment as we use pesticides and other toxic chemicals in comparison with the needs of the actual society. This can be achieved only as we make changes in the law and by educating the public."

The meeting of CGPC is planning to give support to an International 4 year study that Food and Agriculture Organization will facilitate.

The study will include among others:

- *the registration of pesticides of each country which information will be collected and interchanged among the countries taking part in the study

- *give major support to agriculturists and advise on the best methods to control insects and diseases

- *help each country to discard empty pesticide containers

- *train doctors on how to recognize and treat dangerous effects of the health of humans from the use of pesticides

With the financial support of the European Union, FAO has given support for years to countries in the Caribbean. FAO has also focused on methods to control insects in agriculture and to so reduce the risks for the health of local populations and visitors.

FAO has also placed an important role in informing, advising and educating people on the proper use of pesticides.

With the support of countries in the Caribbean they were able to locate more than 300 tons of the most toxic pesticides, such as Dieldrin and Heptachlor.

FAO will mobilise 8 million dollars for the control of pesticides between the Caribbean countries during their project which began back in 2009 and will be completed in 2017.

Santa Rosa also recognizes the importance of protecting humans and our environment. For this reason they are also focusing on the proper use of pesticides and to advise agriculturists to be careful to purchase only pesticides marked safe with the logo indicating that they are organic and non-toxic. **For more information on this matter, contact the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock (Santa Rosa) at 5858102.**

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Competitors slam Google proposals are 'self-advertising'

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Google's competitors on Tuesday warned the European Commission that a set of proposals put forward by the US Internet giant to meet EU antitrust rules constituted "self-advertising" and would do nothing to create a level playing field for searches.

"It would be better for the Commission to do nothing than to accept these proposals," said Thomas Vinje, a spokesman for the FairSearch coalition, which includes travel website TripAdvisor and price comparison sites Twenga and Foundem.

The Commission earlier this year launched a consultation process which is due to wrap up on Thursday over accusations that Google is unfairly favouring its own services

over specialist search engines by giving them greater prominence.

Google has proposed that its own services could be highlighted in a different way so that users could distinguish them from competitors in full knowledge of the choice before them.

But several companies at a press conference organised by FairSearch said that the proposal would be counter-productive.

"At the end of the day, Google is offering a big ad banner. This is self advertising they are proposing, nothing more, nothing less," said Moritz Von Merveldt from the German audiovisual media company ProSiebenSat1.

Michael Weber, director of Hot Maps, a company that of-

fers online interactive maps, said: "A normal user goes to the biggest and boldest thing on the page".

The European Commission has said it wants to resolve the

issue after the summer but EU's Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia has already said he would likely ask Google to "further improve its proposals".

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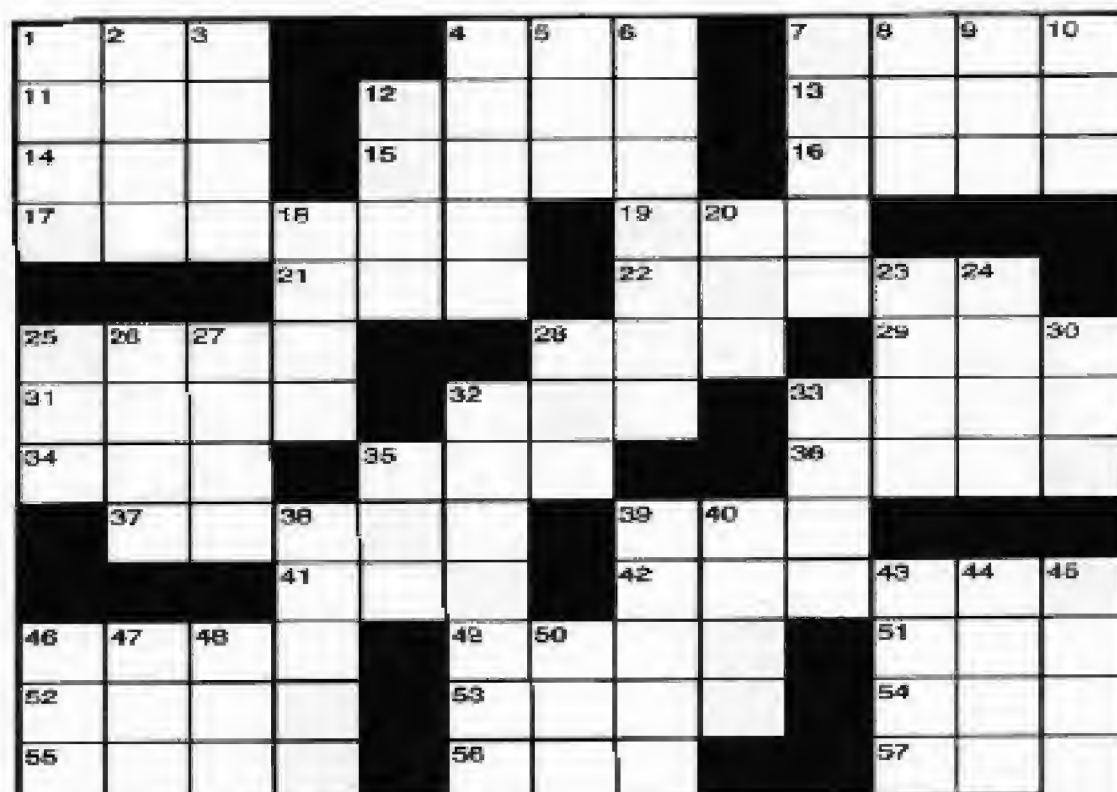
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Three, in Roma
 - Advanced business degree (abbr.)
 - Boot ____
 - Race a motor
 - Stags' mates
 - Bill of Rights defenders (abbr.)
 - King Kong, e.g.
 - Electrified particles
 - Unpaid bill
 - Shaped
 - Shoshonean Indian
 - Distance measures (abbr.)
 - Closet pests
 - Love seat
 - Snapple ingredient
 - "Notes ____ Scandal" (2006 film, 2 wds.)
 - Made a web
 - Primary color
 - "Thing" word
 - Pint-sized
 - Cake baker's need
 - Anxious
 - Miner's stake
 - Slumber party sleepwear
 - Birthstone
 - Author Jane
 - Get top billing
 - Poker declaration (2

- DOWN**
- Mine car
 - "____ Man" (1984 film)
 - Daredevil Knievel
 - Atmospheres
 - Hollywood's Affleck
 - Took for
 - ____ Loser" (2 wds.)
 - Garden equipment
 - Boy (Sp.)
 - Major engineering school (abbr.)
 - Ox collar
 - Methane, e.g.
 - DDE's military arena

- ACROSS**
- granted
 - Military academy student
 - Expert
 - It has 30 teams (abbr.)
 - Set (down)
 - Fizzled out
 - Actress Cannon
 - Bring ____ close (2 wds.)
 - Petty criminal
 - ____ as a bug in a rug
 - Wind dir.
 - Oil cartel acronym
 - Oil or coal
 - Decimal unit
 - Non-picky one's word
 - Hitting hard

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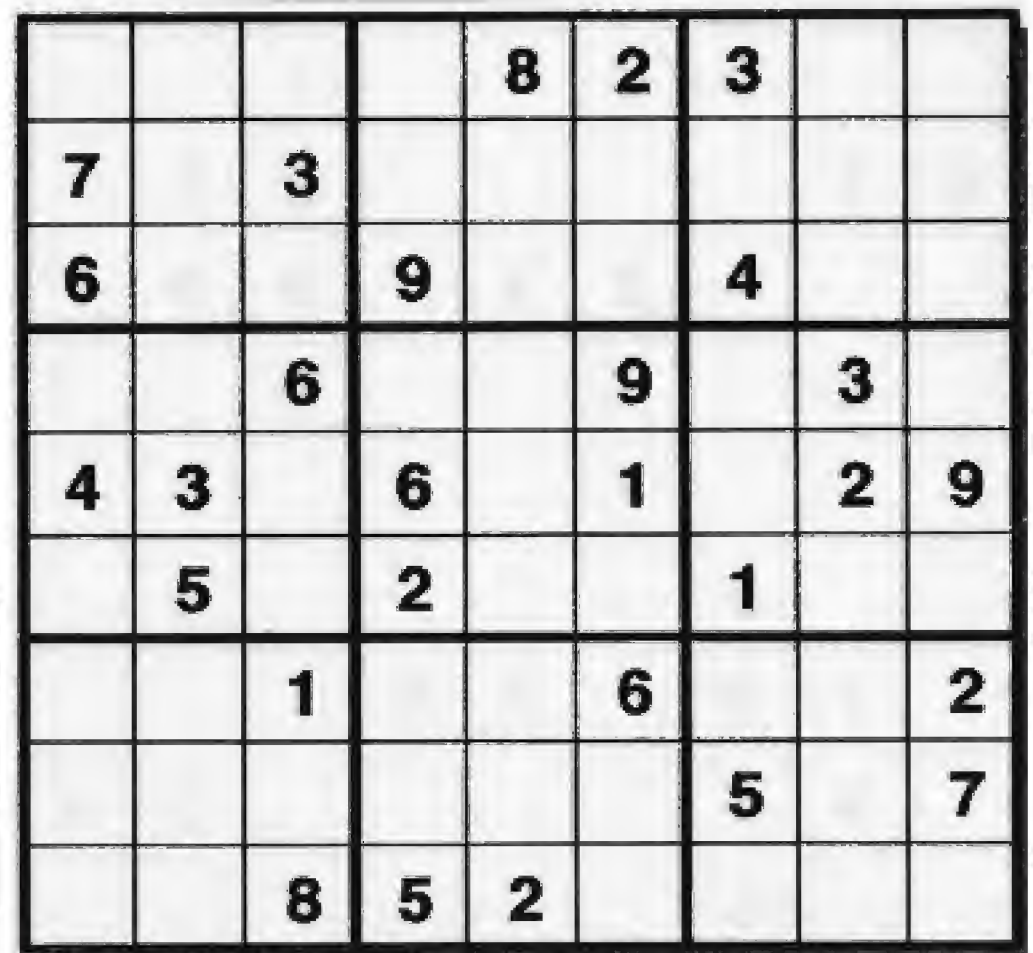
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SOLUTION

8	1	9	7	2	5	8	4	6
2	9	8	6	1	2	9	5	7
5	3	1	4	6	2	6	9	8
9	2	8	1	9	8	2	6	7
5	9	2	8	7	8	9	1	2
8	4	7	6	1	5	9	2	3
1	8	2	9	9	7	8	8	2
9	5	6	2	8	4	7	8	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Cuba to send doctors to work in S. Arabia

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba will send temporary medical personnel to work in Saudi Arabia under a deal reached this week with Riyadh, officials in Havana announced.

The foreign ministry said Monday that Saudi Arabia will become the latest country to receive doctors from Cuba, which contracts its medical professionals to work in nations around the world.

"The first group of Cuban doctors will work in the King Saud Medical City and at the Prince Salman Hospital, two of the most prestigious Saudi medical institutions," it said in a statement.

Cuba's ambassador Enrique Enriquez signed the agreement on Sunday in Riyadh, the ministry said.

Officials from both countries are now negotiating "other types of medical cooperation, which would let the Saudi health system benefit from the experience... of the public health sector in Cuba," the statement read.

The government of President Raul Castro hopes to expand the paid program because it produces an annual

income stream of \$6 billion a year -- an important source of hard currency for the cash-strapped Caribbean island.

As of May, Cuba had 38,870 medical personnel working abroad, including 15,407 doctors, said Yiliam Jimenez, head of the office that coordinates foreign medical cooperation.

The Cuban doctors work in 66 countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Forty of the participating nations are poor countries receiving free medical assistance as part of a program designed by former president Fidel Castro in 1998.

The remaining 26 countries -- including Venezuela, China, South Africa and Algeria -- pay for the medical workers' services.

FINANCE

Argentina appeals to US high court on debt

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina has lodged a Supreme Court appeal of an October 2012 US court ruling in favor of hedge funds seeking bond repayment from its 2001 default, an Economy Ministry source said Wednesday.

"The Argentine government late Monday filed an appeal before the United States Supreme Court, which is a first appeal of the ruling handed down last October 26," the source told AFP.

Argentina defaulted on \$100 billion in debt in 2001. It later was able to get acceptance from about 92 percent of its bondholders for two restructurings, in 2005 and 2010.

But US hedge funds NML Capital and Aurelius, which sued in 2012 seeking \$1.3 billion, did not agree to either deal.

The funds, which Buenos Aires labels "vulture funds," had bought their bonds on the market at a discount and are seeking full repayment.

According to the funds, the value of the bonds is now \$1.47 billion.

Argentina has contended that its offer to the two hedge funds satisfied the requirements of the "pari passu" or equal treatment clause under which the bonds were issued.

Buenos Aires fears that full repayment would require it to repay the restructured bonds in full as well, which some ana-

lysts say could force the country back into default.

The case could have repercussions for the sovereign bonds market, if investors believe that holdouts from post-default restructuring deals could ultimately get fully re-

paid.

That could prevent any such deals from being reached in the future, although some analysts -- and the two hedge funds which sued -- argue the Argentina case would not be seen as a model.

Dollar firms on back of upbeat US data

NEW YORK, June 25, 2013 (AFP) - The dollar strengthened against other major currencies Tuesday, boosted by a batch of positive US economic data.

The euro fell to \$1.3083 around 2100 GMT, down from \$1.3122 at the same time Monday.

The dollar rose to 97.80 yen from 97.70 yen late Monday, while the euro also gained against the Japanese currency, buying 127.95 yen compared with 128.21.

The euro, which stabilized against the dollar late Monday, weakened after positive US economic indicators "set the tone for the day," said Charles St-Arnaud of Nomura.

"Good durable goods orders and a very strong increase in consumer confidence appeared to signal healthy economic ac-

tivity in the United States in the coming months, which allowed the dollar to rise in value," he said.

The positive data helped US stocks advance as market worries eased over a credit crunch in China.

Meanwhile, the euro was pressured by comments from European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi, said Nick Bennenbroek of Wells Fargo Securities.

"He said the economic outlook still warrants an accommodative monetary policy stance, and that the ECB's bond-buying program is even more essential now than previously," Bennenbroek said.

The dollar firmed to 0.9377 Swiss franc from 0.9328 franc late Monday.

The pound fell to \$1.5421 from \$1.5436 a day earlier.

US stocks rise on strong economic data

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks closed higher Tuesday helped by data showing more strength and confidence in the US economy and as worries eased over a credit crunch in China.

At the closing bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 100.75 (0.69 percent) at 14,760.31.

The broad-based S&P 500 added 14.94 (0.95 percent) to 1,588.03, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index rose 27.13 (0.82 percent) to 3,347.89.

The US economy looked better, with new orders for durable goods surging 3.6 percent in May on the back of aircraft sales, and housing prices adding a huge 2.5 percent.

In addition, the Conference Board's consumer confidence index jumped to 81.4, up from 74.3 in May.

After weeks of selling in spite of signs of stronger growth, "we may be at a point where good news is good news," said Art Hogan of Lazard Capital Markets.



SAN JOSE, Ca (AFP) - Apricots hang from a tree during a Village Harvest volunteers harvest apricot trees at Guadalupe Historic Orchard on June 25, 2013 in San Jose, California. Village Harvest and other San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit groups are volunteering to pick excessive fruit from homeowners' yards and other plots of land to donate to food banks, soup kitchens and organizations that help the needy. Urban harvesting, or gleaning, aims to collect fruit that normally goes to waste after it goes unpicked and falls to the ground. Village Harvest has donated thousands of pounds of fruit to local organizations.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

3	A	L	E		O	O	D		T	S	E		
4	O	A	L		C	U	E	S		I	L	K	
5	L	S	A		H	E	C	K		L	I	E	
6				T	W	O			A	B	E	T	S
7	G	R	E		T	O	T	O					
8	L	O	S	S		U	N	E	A	S	Y		
9	I	M			T	B	A		P	A	D		
10	B	E	G	O	N	E			P	A	U	L	A
11				A	L	T	S		A	N	N	E	S
12	H	I	L	D			F	R	O				
13	E	M		E	Y	R	E		I	C	E	S	
14	R	A		R	E	A	L		N	I	L	E	
15	O	N		A	W	L		T	A	K	E		





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A time honored favorite: Mama's Pot Roast with Certified Angus Beef from Super Food

--Imagine our delight to discover a cut of meat rarely made available to consumers on Aruba is now to be a standard item in the Super Food Plaza meat department: **Beef Brisket**. Not only is this very special cut a regular offering, even better, it is from Certified Angus Beef, or CAB, to insure a tender, tasty dish.

Brisket is located between the shoulders and the forelegs of the steer; these muscles get a work-out but are well marbled, particularly when it carries the CAB label. It tempted us to prepare one of our all



first braise the meat

two cups of baby or cut carrots and a 2 oz can of mushrooms. Cover and cook for another 30 minutes.

We found our pot roast tender and tasty, the potatoes melted in our mouth, and the carrots added a nice bit of sweetness. Larger potato pieces will produce more solid chunks when done, the smaller ones will dissolve and naturally thicken the gravy. It was a delicious treat, bringing back memories of Friday night dinners with the family when we were little, and Mama's exceptional



Certified Angus Beef Brisket from Super Food

time favorite dishes, pot roast, just the way Mama used to make it.

There are a number of lean cuts that need low, slow cooking, but the first cut brisket is the undisputed King of the Pot Roasts. Usually available as a large, whole cut of beef, the thick slices sold by Super Food allows the preparation of smaller portions; ideal for a household of only two.

It also cuts the cooking time enormously. An average brisket of 2-3 kilos would take around four hours or more to cook properly. Our pre-sliced version was nicely done in only two.

First lightly brown the meat in two tablespoons of olive oil. Remove from the pot and sauté two medium sliced onions and two tablespoons of chopped garlic until the onion is translucent. Cut two large baking potatoes



Voila, brisket on a bed of cous cous with carrots and potatoes

into chunks. Facilitate clean-up by using a pot that can do double duty on the stove top and oven.

Arrange the meat and onions in the pot and sprinkle with a teaspoon of salt. Add potatoes and two cups beef broth. Cover with an oven safe top and pop into a pre-heated 300F degree oven. Cook for 90 minutes. Add

cooking.

One of the things we like about a pot roast like this is it is a one-pot meal to prepare, for simple, quick cleaning up afterwards. It can also be served as is or over noodles, rice, with funchi or in this case, a slightly exotic touch, cous cous.

by Rosalie Klein

Gandolfini body back in US,

funeral Thursday

NEW YORK (AFP) - The body of actor James Gandolfini has been returned to the United States and funeral services for the celebrated star of "The Sopranos" will be held on Thursday, his family and TV network HBO said.

Gandolfini, 51, died of a heart attack during a trip to Italy last week, his sudden demise triggering a wave of tributes from across the entertainment world.

"Jim is back home. Finally. We landed last night at Newark," family spokesman Michael Kobold wrote in a post on Facebook on Monday.

A funeral service for the Italian-American actor, best known for his role as mafia boss Tony Soprano in the hugely influential cable television series, has been scheduled for 10:00 am (1600 GMT) Thursday at Saint John The Divine Cathedral in New York, an HBO spokesman said.

Flags flew at half-mast in New Jersey on Monday in a mark of respect to Gandolfini, a native of the northeastern US state.

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold

Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the investment. To further en-

hance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom,

Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted

Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes, all quite yummy



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm,

Telf: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



Brazil beware Uruguayan firepower as final looms

BELO HORIZONTE (AFP) - Brazil may have waltzed through their group to reach the semi-finals of the Confederations Cup but they are only too aware of the party pooping abilities of Wednesday's rivals' Uruguay.

It was the Uruguayans who delivered Brazilian football its arguably greatest ever blow in winning the 1950 final in Rio's famed Maracana stadium, the revamped version of which will host Sunday's final where either world champions Spain or Italy await.

That 'Maracanazo' loss sent shockwaves around Brazil and they only made up for the reverse eight years later when, with a teenaged Pele in the team, they finally lifted the trophy for the first time in Sweden.

More recently, Uruguay



Moreover, Julio Cesar points out that in Edinson Cavani, Diego Forlan - match winner against Nigeria with a record 34th goal for the Celeste - and Luis Suarez the Uruguayans have no shortage of firepower.

in the other semi-final.

"Nobody is favourite. They will be confident as they won the Copa America in 2011," said Julio Cesar.

The four semi-finalists have won 12 World Cups between them - a record five for Brazil, four for Italy, two for the Uruguayans and one for Spain.

Uruguay last beat the Selecao in 2001 - ironically it was Luiz Felipe Scolari's first match in charge, but Big Phil would months later lift the World Cup to land a Pentacampeao or fifth title.

Since then the record book reads four wins for the auriverde and two draws.

Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third-largest city and the capital of the state of Minas Gerais, has seen two bouts of the social unrest which has swept Brazil in the past fortnight.

Last week, 20,000 took to the streets to protest at the cost of staging the event and the World Cup when the country is struggling to overhaul crumbling public services.

Then, last Saturday, 70,000 people turned out to protest in the city centre, with 25 people hurt and a similar number arrested.

Uruguay's wily coach Oscar Tabarez says his team has "reached its minimum objective" in making it out of the group stage and while he accepts Brazil are probably favourites, he sticks to an old optimist's dictum.

"In football, nothing is impossible. Though it will be tough as Brazil are a great team and playing at home."



Uruguay squad 2013

have also shown they can mix it with their more powerful neighbours, the nation of barely 3.5 million lifting the 2011 Copa America in Argentina, where Brazil lost in the quarter-finals to Paraguay.

Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar on Monday warned the host nation they must beware if they are not to suffer an ambush in Belo Horizonte, a venue which earned its own place in World Cup folklore in the 1950 event by hosting a United States win over England.

Uruguay have shown some mediocre recent form in World Cup qualifying but the 2011 South American champions have found some form with wins in Brazil over Nigeria and thrashing minnows Tahiti.

"They are very strong in attack and can decide a game on their own," the shot-stopper said.

The trio are set to return after being rested for the 8-0 whipping of Tahiti.

"I know them all well and we shall have to beware. The tiniest thing can decide a match," added Cesar, who faces the prospect of playing second tier English football next season after being relegated with Queens Park Rangers.

Brazil, starting to come to the boil under 2002 World Cup handler Luiz Felipe Scolari, saw off Japan, Mexico and Italy but Uruguay had to regroup after losing their first match against world champions Spain, who will face Italy



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SPORTS

Marchisio backs Gilardino to plug Italy hole



Mario Balotelli

FORTALEZA (AFP) - Claudio Marchisio believes teammate Alberto Gilardino will prove a successful deputy for the injured Mario Balotelli when Italy tackle Spain in the Confederations Cup semi-finals on Thursday.

Balotelli was ruled out of the tournament on Monday after tearing a muscle in his left thigh, depriving coach Cesare Prandelli of a player who has become Italy's most influential striker over the past 12 months.

Gilardino was a member of the Italy squad that tasted World Cup glory in Germany in 2006, and although he has only played for four minutes at the Confederations Cup, Marchisio says the 30-year-old Bologna target man can make an impact against Spain.

"Balotelli is a big loss. We know how good he is and what he has done in this competition," the Juventus midfielder said during a media conference in Fortaleza on Tuesday.

Marchisio said Balotelli's impressive performances during the group phase, which included goal-scoring turns against Mexico and Japan,

were a sign of the 22-year-old's increasing maturity.

Spain made serene progress through the group phase, beating Uruguay 2-1 and destroying Tahiti by a record 10-0 margin before securing their place in the last four by overcoming Nigeria 3-0.

Asked how to stop Barcelona pair Xavi and Andres Iniesta from exerting their habitual domination in midfield, Marchisio replied: "Good question!"

"They're the best in the world in their position. We know that Spain's strength lies especially in their possession of the ball, and that's what we've been working on over the last few days."

There was better news for Italy on the injury front on Tuesday when key midfielder Andrea Pirlo resumed full training after missing Saturday's 4-2 loss to Brazil with a calf complaint.

Speaking on Monday, team doctor Enrico Castellacci had said he was "moderately optimistic" about the 34-year-old Juventus player's chances of facing Spain.

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Golf: Scott starts in Aussie trio for only Open tuneup

BETHESDA (AFP) - Masters champion Adam Scott will play alongside fellow Australians Jason Day and Marc Leishman in the first and second rounds of the US PGA National, his final event before the British Open.

World number four Scott, third in last year's event at Congressional Country Club, became the first green-jacket winner from Australia by winning his first major title two months ago at Augusta National.

Scott was grouped with his compatriots on Tuesday ahead



of Thursday's start of the \$6.5 million event in suburban Washington, played on the same 7,569-yard layout where Rory McIlroy won the 2011 US Open for his first major triumph.

Scott has become the National's top draw after world number one Tiger Woods, the defending champion, pulled out with a left elbow strain and England's Justin Rose, the new US Open champion, withdrew citing fatigue.

Neither man will play another tournament until next month's British Open at Muirfield and this will be the only event for Scott, who made bogeys on the last four holes to cost himself last year's British Open crown.

Scott, coming off a share of 45th at the US Open two weeks ago, adopted a reduced tour schedule in 2011 to focus on winning majors and the move paid off.

The third round last year was played without spectators as a violent storm late Friday toppled 50 trees across the course, grounds crews barely making the course playable Saturday and unable to safely fix viewing areas until Sunday.

There's a chance of severe thunderstorms every afternoon

this week as temperatures and humidity are forecast to be high.

Scott can match idle American Matt Kuchar for the PGA lead in consecutive cuts by making his 19th in a row this week.

Day, who has made 17 cuts in a row, shared second at the US Open and has four top-three finishes in the past 10 majors. Day, second to McIlroy here at the 2011 US Open, won his only PGA title at the 2010 Byron Nelson Championship.

Also in the field of 132 chasing a \$1.1 million top prize are PGA driving distance leader Nicolas Colsaerts of Belgium, US world number eight Brandt Snedeker, last year's US PGA playoff champion, and Canada's Graham DeLaet.

DeLaet matched his best PGA finish with a share of third in last week's Travelers Championship and donated a portion of his winnings to flood relief efforts in Calgary. He leads the PGA in reaching greens in regulation.

Chris Stroud, last week's Travelers Championship runner-up, chipped-in from 48 feet on the 72nd hole to force a playoff that he lost to Ken Duke and still seeks his first PGA victory.

Swimming: Lochte back in pool after reality check



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Johnny Weissmuller came back from the 1924 Olympics in Paris with a chest full of medals, put on a loincloth and starred alongside Maureen O'Sullivan in a string of Tarzan movies.

In 1932, Buster Crabbe parlayed Olympic swimming success at the Los Angeles Games into a lengthy film career, battling intergalactic evil-doers in the Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers serials.

Ryan Lochte came home from last year's London Olympics with a five-medal haul -- to go with his two from Athens in 2004 -- and four from Beijing in 2008.

He wound up with a reality television show.

"Yeah, I guess times change," the personable Lochte said Monday on the eve of the US swimming championships, which run Tuesday through Saturday in Indianapolis.

The eight-episode series, What Would Ryan Lochte Do?, aired during April and May on E!

In it, Lochte didn't swing on vines or match wits with Ming the Merciless. Instead, he worked on creating a fashion line, searched for true love and prepared for the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"It was fun. It was a good experience," said Lochte, who said the show enabled him get closer to his family -- his

mother, older sisters, younger brother and his nephews, who appeared in the episodes.

Like swimming, TV work turned out to be a daily grind.

"It was every day for eight weeks straight," Lochte said. "Every day shooting, from when I wake up to when I go to bed."

Still, it was a break from the high-pressure world of Olympic-caliber competition.

The life of a reality TV star had definite perks.

Ultimately, Lochte opted to return to the chlorine scene.

It was no picnic. "I had some doubts when I first got back," he admitted. "Should I just hang up the Speedo? Should I call it quits, or do I keep moving?"

The national championships determine the USA team for this year's World Championships in Barcelona, July 23-August 4.

Along with Lochte, the entries include individual gold medalists from the London Olympics like Missy Franklin, Allison Schmitt, Katie Ledecky, Dana Vollmer, Nathan Adrian, Tyler Clary and Matt Grevers.

Lochte is vague about his plans for the rest of the week, as well as the rest of the summer.

The 28-year-old Lochte's long-range goal is clear, however.

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Boxing: Mayweather, Alvarez begin hype for showdown



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Undeclared fighters Floyd Mayweather and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, set for a September 14 showdown at Las Vegas, are hyping the world title bout with a tour that launched in New York and Washington.

Mexico's Alvarez, whose nickname is Spanish for "Cinnamon", will defend his World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association super welterweight titles against Mayweather in a pay-per-view show on Mexican Independence Day weekend.

Mayweather, 44-0 with 26 knockouts, has relied upon Mexican fight fans, many cheering for his rivals, to help make him the world's highest-paid athlete, with Sports Illustrated estimating he will make \$90 million this year.

Mayweather, who was jailed last June on domestic violence charges, will make

the bout the second in a six-fight deal with telecaster Showtime that could bring him record profits by the conclusion of the deal.

Alvarez, 42-0 with one drawn and 30 knockouts, suffered the only blemish on his record in 2006 with a draw in his fifth professional bout and hopes to end Mayweather's magical run.

"In boxing everybody has their time and this is my time," Alvarez said. Everybody knows that Floyd is the best without question, but it's my time. We're going to win.

"I'm younger and bigger, which are very important keys. Floyd is a very intelligent fighter, but I'm going to have the right game plan. This is my biggest fight but I've visualized it and prepared my mind for it for a while."

Alvarez turns 23 next month while Mayweather, 36, fought his first pro fight

when the Mexican was only six years old.

"It has truly been an amazing ride," Mayweather said. "I'm blessed to be in the sport of boxing and be at the top for 17 years. I just want to give the fans a hell of a fight."

"Canelo is a young strong champion. He has obviously done something right to be at this level. He's a guy that I can't overlook. I've got to go out there and fight the best fight."

Mayweather also warned that Alvarez has not faced anyone as hard to stop.

"When guys face me, it's a totally different level," Mayweather said. "I know what it takes in a fight of this magnitude and I'm going to continue to dedicate myself to my craft and be the best that I can be."

"The Earth is my turf. You can put me in any ring and I'll always come out victorious."

Tennis: Djokovic, Serena cruise, Robson gives Brits boost



LONDON (AFP) - Top seeds Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams cruised into the Wimbledon second round on Tuesday as the All England Club recovered from the shockwaves of Rafael Nadal's exit 24 hours earlier.

World number one Djokovic, the 2011 champion, beat Germany's Florian Mayer 6-3, 7-5, 6-4, in the Serb's first grass-court outing of the season and his first match since his shattering five-set semi-final loss to Nadal at the French Open.

Defending champion Williams, chasing a sixth Wimbledon title and 17th major, racked-up her 32nd successive win, cruising to a 6-1, 6-3 win over Luxembourg's Mandy Minella.

Tuesday's 32nd successive win took her to within just three of the record set by older sister Venus in 2000.

"I never think about the run, I just treat every match like a new one," said Williams.

She goes on to face French qualifier Caroline Garcia, who she beat in the second round in Paris, for a place in the last 32.

Russia's Maria Kirilenko, who made the quarter-finals last year, slumped to a first round exit at the hands of

Britain's world number 38, Laura Robson, who claimed a 6-3, 6-4 win.

On a bad day for Russians, 21st seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova slumped to a 6-0, 6-1 loss to Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova who made the semi-finals in 2010.

Russian 13th seed Nadia Petrova went out 6-3, 6-2 to Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

Li Na, the Chinese sixth seed, enjoyed a comprehensive 6-1, 6-1 defeat of Dutchwoman Michaella Krajicek.

Polish fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska enjoyed a 6-1, 6-1 win over Austrian qualifier Yvonne Meusberger.

Radwanska, the runner-up to Williams last year, next faces Mathilde Johansson of France.

In the men's first round, Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer beat Argentina's Martin Alund 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Bulgarian 29th seed Grigor Dimitrov, the man at the centre of the Williams-Sharapova spat, cruised past Italy's Simone Bolelli, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.

Argentinian eighth seed Juan Martin del Potro, who missed the French Open through illness, saw off Spain's Albert Ramos 6-2, 7-5, 6-1.